Surcharge amount on mill cloth.

* 1283 *Q.*—SRI P. VENKATASUBBAYYA (on behalf of Sri S. Narayanappa): Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(*a*) how much amount was allotted by the Central Government to this State out of the surcharge amount on mill cloth towards the relief of handloom weavers in this State;

(*b*) whether the Government have requested the Central Government to allot more funds and what the reply of the Central Government, if any, was;

(*c*) whether the Government have any proposals under which the present grievances of the weavers will be redressed; and if so, what those proposals are;

(*d*) how much amount has been allotted for each such proposal;

(*e*) whether the Government have consulted any non-official weavers' organizations before such new proposals were prepared;

(*f*) if so, what those non-official organizations were and what their suggestions were; and

(*g*) whether any arrangements have been made for immediate relief to the weavers?

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO:—"(*a*) No allotment has yet been made by the Government of India to State Governments from the proceeds of the Cess on mill-made cloth. It is, however, estimated that it may be about Rs. 1·25 crores.

"(*b*) Does not arise.

"(*c*) & (*d*) Certain schemes for utilisation of the Cess Fund have been formulated and forwarded to the Government of India for their approval. These schemes when executed are likely to redress some of the grievances of the weavers. It is not in public interest to disclose the details of the schemes at this stage.

"(*e*) & (*f*) The Madras Handloom Committee and the High Power Handloom Committee and persons like Sri Pragada Kotaiah, M.L.A., and Sri M. S. A. Majid were consulted. Some suggestions were also received from District Handloom Boards, some Handloom Associations, etc., but these suggestions were more or less covered by the proposals the Government have already drawn up.

"(*g*) The Weavers Relief Scheme already introduced in July 1952 has been extended up to the end of December 1953."